

How Students Are Supported: One-Size Does Not Fit All

District of Columbia Schools (DCPS) has high standards for students. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. To make success possible for every student, the school system must provide the right supports.



Photo by Bel Perez-Gablondo

ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS FOR MATH

- System-wide, DCPS uses Everyday Mathematics for grades K-6. This curriculum emphasizes the application of mathematics to real world situations.
- At the classroom level teachers also use educational technology that includes math labs to target specific skills and facilitate accelerated math.
- Teachers receive weekly professional development from full-time instructional coaches, and the coaches collaborate with teachers in small group teams to share strategies on how to deliver specific content.

OUT-SCHOOL-TIME

- **The Afterschool Power Hour** and **Saturday Scholars** provide important supplementary learning time students.

The continuum of resources ranging from academic interventions to innovative school models is designed to ensure that all students get the individualized support she or he needs.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS FOR READING

- **DIBELS**, an early reading assessment that provides constant progress monitoring for grades K-5.
- **Burst** reading intervention in **50 schools up from 35 last year** focused on helping struggling readers.
- Use of the **Text Reading and Comprehension (TRC)** reading assessment to provide students' reading levels based on reading accuracy and comprehension.
- Next year DCPS will use implement **FUNdations** and **Just Words** for grades K-3. Both programs are research-based phonics interventions that target whole-class and large groups of students.
- Targeted professional development for teachers using the **National Reading Panel's** five areas of reading instruction.
- DCPS expanded its use of **Scholastic Read 180** to include 32 secondary schools and Special Education Centers.



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DCPS' priority is to aggressively continue increasing the depth and variety of programs offered to ensure student success.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- DCPS is expanding its partnership with City Year from 7 to 10 schools. The corps members for this national service organization provide important literacy support to individual students.
- DCPS recognizes the need to provide ongoing training and coaching for teachers to drive instruction. To do this, DCPS is expanding its partnership with a non-profit called the Achievement Network (ANet) from 11 to 30 schools next year.

INNOVATIVE SCHOOL MODELS

- Ranging from new schools that include Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School and the Youth Engagement Academy to programmatic upgrades such as the Catalyst Schools —families have a more compelling options than ever before.

